

REMARKS

Claims 3-10 remain pending in the present application.

Specification Objections

With regard to disclosure of FIGs. 10-15, Applicants assert that they are adequately disclosed in the specification. For example, FIGs. 10-13, 14, and 15 are described as step 1, step 2, and step 3, respectively, *inter alia*, on page 14 of the specification. References to step 1 pertain to acyclic paths, step 2 pertain to simple cycles, and step 3 pertain to combining paths and cycles. Disclosure in the specification related to steps 1-3 also pertain to FIGs. 10-13, 14, and 15, respectively. In further example of some of the disclosure of FIGs. 10-15, the subject matter of FIGs. 10-13 is disclosed, *inter alia*, on page 15, lines 1-14; the subject matter of FIG. 13 is disclosed, *inter alia*, on page 20; the subject matter of FIG. 12 is disclosed, *inter alia*, on pages 16 and 18; the subject matter of FIG. 14 is disclosed, *inter alia*, on page 15, lines 1-14 and page 17; and the subject matter of FIG. 15 is disclosed, *inter alia*, on page 15, lines 15-22.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the disclosure of FIG. 12 as it relates to the specification, and the use of the "v" and "u" terms. Applicants assert that the objection is now moot given the Applicants amendment to page 16 of the specification.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application Publication No. 0 421 652 A2 to Uyar. Applicants respectfully traverse.

With respect to claim 3, Applicants assert that Uyar fails to disclose each operational state pertaining to a first operation of a first gateway system associated with the first end user and a corresponding second operation of a second gateway system associated with the second end user. Instead, Uyar discloses that during testing, each entity (user) of a multi-user system is replaced with an individual tester so that the correctness of the interactions between the entities and the multi-user system implementation can be tested (Col. 7, lines 30-36). In testing, a Tester A sends input to the multi-user system implementation under test and Tester B and C expect outputs called $output_m$ and $output_n$ (Col. 7, line 55-Col. 8, line 3). The states of such tests are reflected in FIGs. 9-11. Fig. 9, for example shows only 1 input and one state for each test step. This is not the same as an operational state that pertains to a first operation and a second operation as recited in claim 3. Moreover, each state of Uyar does not pertain to operations of a first and second gateway as recited in claim 3. Therefore, Uyar can not suggest or disclose an operation state a first operation of a first gateway system associated with a first end user and a corresponding second operation of a second gateway system associated with a second end user as recited in claim 3.

The Examiner suggests that Uyar discloses the testing of two systems and that it would be obvious that the two systems could be gateway systems. Applicants assert that Uyar does not teach the testing of two systems and tracking the states of such a test. Instead, Uyar discloses the testing of only one multi-user system (Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 30-36). Therefore, Uyar can not disclose or suggest an operational state pertaining to a first operation of a first gateway corresponding to a second operation of a second gateway as recited in claim 3.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants assert that claim 3 is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in art by Uyar.

Claims 4-10 are allowable at least because they depend from independent claim 3.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 3-10 are patentable, and that the application as a whole is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

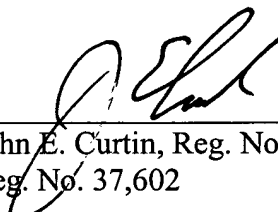
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-

0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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